

# AN INITIATIVE PETITION FOR A LAW RESTORING FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

*Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority*

SECTION 1. Section 8 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “filing”, in line 25 and within the sentence in which it appears, the following:

provided the candidate named has complied with section 70J of this chapter.

SECTION 2. Section 70E of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraph:

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, or any other general or special law to the contrary, any candidate or potential candidate for the office of president of the United States whose name is to appear on the presidential primary ballot pursuant to this section shall, no later than five o'clock post meridian on the first Friday in January of the year of the primary, submit to the state secretary: (1) copies of all of that candidate's or potential candidate's U.S. Individual Tax Returns, filed during the prior six calendar years and any other documents filed during that period with the Internal Revenue Service by or on behalf of that candidate or potential candidate setting forth that candidate or potential candidate's sources and amounts of income, and any amendments or supplements to those returns or documents, including all supporting schedules, attachments or lists which are supplemental to, or part of, the documents filed; and (2) a written consent authorizing the state secretary to make public disclosure of the returns or documents as filed and to redact the returns and documents to eliminate personal information in accordance with this paragraph. The written consent shall attest that all returns and


other documents required by this section to be submitted to the Secretary have been submitted. The candidate or potential candidate may redact the returns and other documents before submitting them by blocking out personal information as follows: minor’s names, other than their initials; all but the last four digits of social security numbers, financial account numbers, and taxpayer identification numbers; the month and day of one’s birth; and government issued identification numbers. The state secretary may block the personal information set forth in the preceding sentence, if the candidate or potential candidate has not done so. Thirty days before the relevant presidential primary or as soon as practicable, the state secretary shall make public, including if practicable, by publishing on the state secretary’s website, the documents required by this paragraph to be submitted to him as redacted. The names of candidates or potential candidates who decline to submit the returns, documents and written consent required by this paragraph shall not appear on the presidential primary ballot.

SECTION 3. Chapter 70I of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “candidate” at the end of line 5 and within the sentence in which it appears, the following words:

or unless the candidate has failed to comply with Section 70J of this Chapter.

SECTION 4. Chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:

Section 70J. Not later than the last Tuesday in August immediately preceding a general election, a candidate for the office of president or vice president whose electors have been certified pursuant to section 6 or section 8 of this chapter, and who has previously submitted to the state secretary the tax return information and attestation required by section 70E of this Chapter, shall supplement that filing with whatever additional filings have been made to the Internal Revenue Service during the calendar year of the election that meet the criteria set forth in clause (1) of said section 70E and a written consent authorizing publication and redaction of those additional filings. That written consent shall attest that any returns or other documents required by this section have been submitted to the state secretary. If any candidate for president or

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